Fijian Prime Minister and others under arrest inside Parliament House; and

(b) if so, what was his report about the political situation and security of persons of Indian origins in Fiji and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. A senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs was sent to Fiji in early June, 2000.

(b) His assessment was that political situation in Fiji then was precarious and uncertain. There were some incidents of looting of shops and other businesses belonging to persons of Indian origin. However, there was no loss of life and the Indian community was bearing up with the situation with courage and displaying no signs of panic.

Brutal assault on Indian researcher in Leipzig

544. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the brutal assault committed by Germans on an Indian researcher in Leipzig recently;

(b) if so, the details of the motive behind it; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to instill security and confidence in Indian residents in Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. While on a study visit to Germany, an Indian researcher was attacked by three unidentified persons on the night of 12th June, 2000 in Leipzig. He was given necessary medical attention. An official of the Indian Embassy at Berlin, went to Leipzig to ascertain the facts and the matter was taken up with the local police authorities.

(b) The assailants remain unidentified. The motive for the attack is not known.

(c) In all such cases, the Indian Embassy has received prompt co-operation of the local Authorities. As there are no reports of any organized discrimination or violence against the Indian community (numbering approximately 40,000), there is no general insecurity in the Indian community residing in Germany.

UK's decision to export defence equipment to Pakistan

545. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent decision of the UK Government to export defence equipments to Pakistan have any impact on relation with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to discuss the issue with the UK Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) We are disappointed with the decision of the UK Government to issue export licences for the supply of equipment to Pakistan. India believes that the decision is not in consonance with the spirit of the stand taken by the British Government in respect of the situation in Pakistan.

(c) and (d) We have conveyed our concerns to the British Government through our High Commission in London.

Outcome of Prime Minister's visit to Italy and Portugal

546. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the agreements signed by India during the recent visit of Indian Prime Minister to Italy and Portugal;